



March 16, 2018

The Honorable Ryan Costello
U.S. House of Representatives
326 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Costello,

On behalf of the Young Farmers Coalition of Southeastern Pennsylvania (Young Farmers of SEPA), we would like to thank you for introducing the *Young and Beginning Farmers Act* (H.R. 4201). This legislation is vital to the success of young farmers and ranchers in our region and around the country as it addresses three critical barriers facing the next generation of producers: lack of access to affordable farmland, difficulty reaching federal farm bill programs, and finding opportunities for training, mentorship, and business development.

The Young Farmers of SEPA is a regional chapter of the National Young Farmers Coalition (NYFC) that focuses on the needs of farmers and ranchers in the area. Our chapter thrives to create a space for young and beginning farmers to connect, mobilize, share ideas, and build community. We host potlucks and mixers, collaborate with other farms and organizations, and hold regular meetings to further our agenda.

Back in April of 2016, you met with two of our chapter members, Frank Kurylo and Kim Cook, at Two Gander Farm in Downingtown, PA. We were able to discuss the importance of local sustainable food systems in our communities and the urgent need for young people to pursue a career in agriculture. Thank you for taking the time to meet with us and for translating that discussion into concrete legislative action by championing the *Young and Beginning Farmers Act*.

As Congress continues its work on the next farm bill, we look forward to working with you to ensure that the priorities outlined in H.R. 4201 are included in the final legislation. We urge you to work with your colleagues to add co-sponsors to your bill and build support for young farmers across all titles of the farm bill.

Thank you again for your time and support of young and beginning farmers and ranchers.

Sincerely,

Members of The Young Farmers Coalition of Southeastern Pennsylvania
youngfarmerspa@gmail.com